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1 Referring again to Fig. 5, the camera 10 is programmed to require reception of an  
2 operational code in order to function (block 82). The camera 10 is further programmed to check  
3 for a renewal of the operational code at periodic intervals of time  $\Delta T$ , or at the occurrence of a  
4 specific initialization process such as when starting up the camera, or prior to taking a picture.  
5 If the renewal code is received 90, operation can continue. If the renewal operational code is not  
6 received 92, the camera according to the program, shuts down the camera operation (block 94).  
7 The owner can also optionally program a required user access password (block 82) for the  
8 purpose of deterring unauthorized use within the otherwise operational physical boundaries/zone.  
9 In operation, a user would enter his user access password (block 84) and operate the camera  
10 (block 86). The transmitter 28 repeatedly broadcasts the operational code. The camera checks  
11 for a renewal of the code transmission (block 88). If the camera 10 receives a renewal of the  
12 operational code (90), the camera continues to be operational. If no renewal of the code is  
13 received (92), the camera automatically shuts down operation (block 94).

14 Figs. 6A and 6B illustrate an alternate embodiment wherein an encryption procedure is  
15 performed on the image data, and then stored in the camera in an encrypted form. Only the  
16 owner has the key to decrypt the data, and as a result, a user is provided with an added incentive  
17 to return the camera in order to get a useable copy of the acquired image data.

18 Block 95 of Fig. 6A is a replacement for any of the "operator camera" blocks 56, 72, 86  
19 of Figs. 3, 4 and 5. According to Fig. 6A, in order to implement the encryption feature, the  
20 operate camera block 95 performs the process of image capture 96, followed by an encryption of  
21 the incoming image data 98, and then stores the encrypted image data 100. The camera then  
22 stores only the encrypted image data, the original then being available only to a person